



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20230

MAY - 9 2008

Memorandum For: Helen Hurcombe, Director
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Acquisition and Grants Office

Judith J. Gordon

From: Judith J. Gordon
Acting Assistant Inspector General for Audits
Office of the Inspector General

Subject: Audit of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration's Use of Finger Lakes Production
International, Inc. for Radio Scripts on Ocean Matters

We plan to begin an audit of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) use of Finger Lakes Production International, Inc. (FLPI) for radio broadcasts of ocean-related subject matters.

The purpose of our review is to evaluate NOAA's contract and financial assistance awards to FLPI. Specifically, we will evaluate whether the 2002 contract award to FLPI was competitive or sole source. We will also evaluate NOAA's process for making financial assistance awards for educational purposes in 2003, 2005, and 2006 to determine how the bureau prioritized the ocean-related proposals and what competitive environment existed.

We have scheduled an entrance conference with you and the appropriate NOAA officials to discuss these objectives.

If you should have any questions concerning our planned audit, please contact me at (202) 482-5643 or Rodney D. Britt, audit manager, at (202) 482-7886.

cc: Rhonda Lawrence, NOAA Audit Liaison